income up to Rs.1,50,000 to Rs.30,000 as against the deductions of only Rs. 25,000 allowable for salaried income up to Rs.1 Lakh. For Salaried Employees earning income between Rs.1.5 lakh and Rs.3 lakhs, the limit was raised to Rs. 25,000 as against the earlier limit of Rs. 20,000. Thus, there is no case for discrimination.

The Finance Minister, in his Speech in the Lok Sabha on 31.7.2002, announced an increase in the deduction under section 80L, on income received by way of interest, dividend etc. from the existing limit of Rs.12,000/- to Rs.15,000/-. In the case of dividend income received, the threshold limit for not deducting TDS has also been raised from Rs.1000/- to Rs. 2,500/-. These benefits are available to all Assessees including Salaried Employees of the Government, PSUs and Private Sector.

Scheme for long term lending by banks

2017. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Reserve Bank of India is evolving a scheme whereby banks are facilitated to engage in long term lending;

(b) if so, the details in this regard and the reaction of the banks to the proposal; and

(c) whether this scheme would have any adverse impact on the borrowings of SSI units and the farming sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India had issued guidelines in April, 1999 to all commercial banks and all India financial institutions for financing of long-term financial requirements of infrastructure projects. These guidelines were modified in February, 2002;

(c) No adverse impact on the borrowings of SSI units and the farming sector is foreseen on account of implementation of these guidelines by the banks.